

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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31. (New) A method of compressing an image block comprising multiple image elements, said method comprising the steps of:

- a computer-implemented color quantizer determining a color codeword that is a representation of the colors of said multiple image elements;
- a computer-implemented alpha quantizer determining an alpha codeword that is a representation of the alpha values of said multiple image elements;
- providing an alpha modifying codeword that is a representation of a set of multiple alpha modifiers for modifying an alpha value generated based on said alpha codeword; and
- a computer-implemented index selector selecting, for each image element in said image block, an alpha modifier index associated with an alpha modifier from said alpha modifier set.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

- providing a color modifying codeword that is a representation of a set of multiple color modifiers for modifying a color generated based on said color codeword; and
- selecting, for each image element in said image block, a color modifier index associated with a color modifier from said color modifier set.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein providing the color modifying codeword comprises selecting said color modifier set from a color table comprising multiple color modifier sets, whereby said color modifying codeword enables identification of said selected color modifier set from said color table.

34. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein determining the color codeword comprises:

- determining a first color subcodeword that is a representation of the colors of at least a first portion of said multiple image elements; and
- determining a second color subcodeword that is a representation of the colors of at least a second portion of said multiple image elements, said method further comprising:
 - selecting, for each image element in at least a subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first color subcodeword or said second color subcodeword.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein a sequence of said color indices comprises, for each image element in a first subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first or second color subcodeword, each image element in a second remaining subset of said multiple image elements is associated with a pre-defined color subcodeword selected from said first or second color subcodeword.

36. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein providing the alpha modifying codeword comprises said selecting said alpha modifier set from an alpha table comprising multiple alpha modifier sets, whereby said alpha modifying codeword enables identification of said selected alpha modifier set from said alpha table.

37. (New) A method of processing a compressed representation of an image block comprising multiple image elements, said compressed representation comprising a color codeword, an alpha codeword, an alpha modifying codeword and an alpha modifier index sequence, and said method comprising:

- providing a set of multiple alpha modifiers based on said alpha modifying codeword;
for at least one image element in said image block:

- a computer-implemented color generator generating a color representation based on said color codeword;

- a computer-implemented alpha generator generating an alpha representation based on said alpha codeword;

- a computer-implemented selector selecting an alpha modifier from said alpha modifier set based on said alpha modifier index sequence; and

- a computer-implemented alpha modifier modifying said alpha representation based on said selected alpha modifier.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein said compressed image block representation further comprises a color modifying codeword and a color modifier index sequence, said method further comprising:

- providing a set of multiple color modifiers based on said color modifying codeword;

- selecting a color modifier from said color modifier set based on said color modifier index sequence; and

- modifying said color representation based on said selected color modifier.

39. (New) The method according to claim 38, wherein providing said color modifier set comprises selecting, based on said color modifying codeword, said color modifier set from a color table comprising multiple color modifier sets.

40. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein said color codeword comprises a first color subcodeword and a second color subcodeword and said compressed image block representation further comprises a color index sequence, and generating the color representation comprises:

- generating said color representation based on at least one color subcodeword selected from said first and second color subcodeword.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein said color index sequence comprises, for each image element in a first subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first or second color subcodeword, each image element in a second remaining subset of said multiple image elements is associated with a pre-defined color subcodeword selected from said first or second color subcodeword.

42. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein providing the alpha modified set comprises selecting, based on said alpha modifying codeword, said alpha modifier set from an alpha table comprising multiple alpha modifier sets.

43. (New) A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium and defining a block encoder for compressing an image block comprising multiple image elements, said computer program product comprising coded instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform functions comprising:

- a color quantizer configured to determine a color codeword that is a representation of the colors of said multiple image elements;
- an alpha quantizer configured to determine an alpha codeword that is a representation of the alpha values of said multiple image elements;
- an alpha modifying codeword provider configured to provide an alpha modifying codeword that is a representation of a set of multiple alpha modifiers for modifying an alpha value generated based on said alpha codeword; and
- an index selector configured to select, for each image element in said image block, an alpha modifier index associated with an alpha modifier from said alpha modifier set.

44. (New) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein said coded instructions, when executed by a computer, provide a color modifying codeword that is a representation of a set of multiple color modifiers for modifying a color generated based on said color codeword, wherein said index selector is configured to select, for each image element in said image block, a color modifier index associated with a color modifier from said color modifier set.

45. (New) The computer program product according to claim 44, wherein acts performed by execution of the coded instructions comprise selecting said color modifier set from a color table comprising multiple color modifier sets, whereby said color modifying codeword enables identification of said selected color modifier set from said color table.

46. (New) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein the acts performed by execution of the coded instructions further comprise determining a first color subcodeword that is a representation of the colors of at least a first portion of said multiple image elements and a second color subcodeword that is a representation of the colors of at least a second portion of said multiple image elements, and said index selector is configured for selecting, for each image element in at least a subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first color subcodeword or said second color subcodeword.

47. (New) The computer program product according to claim 46, wherein a sequence of said color indices comprises, for each image element in a first subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first or second color subcodeword, each image element in a second remaining subset of said multiple image elements being associated with a pre-defined color subcodeword selected from said first or second color subcodeword.

48. (New) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein the alpha modifying codeword provider is configured to select said alpha modifier set from an alpha table comprising multiple alpha modifier sets,

whereby said alpha modifying codeword enables identification of said selected alpha modifier set from said alpha table.

49. (New) A computer comprising a block encoder for compressing an image block comprising multiple image elements, said block encoder comprising:

- a color quantizer configured to determine a color codeword that is a representation of the colors of said multiple image elements;
- an alpha quantizer configured to determine an alpha codeword that is a representation of the alpha values of said multiple image elements;
- means for providing an alpha modifying codeword that is a representation of a set of multiple alpha modifiers for modifying an alpha value generated based on said alpha codeword; and
- an index selector configured to select, for each image element in said image block, an alpha modifier index associated with an alpha modifier from said alpha modifier set.

50. (New) A computer program product stored on a computer-readable medium and defining a block decoder for processing a compressed representation of an image block comprising multiple image elements, said compressed representation comprises a color codeword, an alpha codeword, an alpha modifying codeword and an alpha modifier index sequence, said computer program product comprising coded instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform acts comprising:

- providing a set of multiple alpha modifiers based on said alpha modifying codeword;
- generating a color representation for at least one image element in said image block based on said color codeword;
- generating an alpha value for said at least one image element based on said alpha codeword;
- selecting, for said at least one image element, an alpha modifier from said

identified alpha modifier set based on said alpha modifier index sequence; and

- modifying said alpha value based on said selected alpha modifier.

51. (New) A computer comprising a block decoder for processing a compressed representation of an image block comprising multiple image elements, said compressed representation comprises a color codeword, an alpha codeword, an alpha modifying codeword and an alpha modifier index sequence, said block decoder comprising computer program elements comprising:

- means for providing a set of multiple alpha modifiers based on said alpha modifying codeword;
- a color generator for generating a color representation for at least one image element in said image block based on said color codeword;
- an alpha generator for generating an alpha value for said at least one image element based on said alpha codeword;
- a selector for selecting, for said at least one image element, an alpha modifier from said identified alpha modifier set based on said alpha modifier index sequence; and
- an alpha modifier for modifying said alpha value based on said selected alpha modifier.

52. (New) A mobile user terminal comprising:

- a memory configured to store a compressed representation of an image block comprising a color codeword, an alpha codeword, an alpha modifying codeword and an alpha modifier index sequence; and
- a block decoder configured to process said compressed representation of said image block, said block decoder comprising:
 - means for providing a set of multiple alpha modifiers based on said alpha modifying codeword;
 - a color generator configured to generate a color representation for at least one image element in said image block based on said color codeword;
 - an alpha generator configured to generate an alpha value for said at least one image element based on said alpha codeword;
 - a selector configured to select, for said at least one image element, an alpha modifier from said identified alpha modifier set based on said alpha modifier index sequence; and
 - an alpha modifier configured to modify said alpha value based on said selected alpha modifier.

53. (New) The mobile user terminal according to claim 52, wherein said compressed image block representation further comprises a color modifying codeword and a color modifier index sequence, said block decoder further comprises:

- means configured to provide a set of multiple color modifiers based on said color modifying codeword; and
- a color modifier configured to modify said color representation based on a color modifier selected by said selector from said color modifier set using said color modifier index sequence.

54. (New) The mobile user terminal according to claim 53, wherein said color modifier set providing means is configured to select, based on said color modifying codeword, said color modifier set from a color table comprising multiple color modifier sets.

55. (New) The mobile user terminal according to claim 52, wherein said color codeword comprises a first color subcodeword and a second color subcodeword and said compressed image block representation further comprises a color index sequence, and said color generator is configured for generating said color representation based on at least one color subcodeword selected by said selector from said first and second color subcodeword.

56. (New) The mobile user terminal according to claim 55, wherein said color index sequence comprises, for each image element in a first subset of said multiple image elements, a color index associated with said first or second color subcodeword, each image element in a second remaining subset of said multiple image elements is associated with a pre-defined color subcodeword selected from said first or second color subcodeword.

57. (New) The mobile user terminal according to claim 52, wherein said alpha modifier set providing means is configured to select, based on said alpha modifying codeword, said alpha modifier set from an alpha table comprising multiple alpha modifier sets.